

RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 220) recognizing America's Blood Centers and its member organizations for their commitment to providing over half the Nation with a safe and adequate volunteer donor blood supply, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 220

Whereas each year more than 4,500,000 Americans need a blood transfusion, and for over half the need is urgent and lifesaving;

Whereas one out of three people need donated blood in their lifetime, and one out of seven hospital patients need a blood transfusion;

Whereas it is the blood available on a daily basis that saves lives, and volunteer blood donors are required every day to meet patient needs and to be immediately available in times of disaster;

Whereas community blood centers strive year-round to maintain a sufficient blood supply, an urgent task because blood components must be constantly rotated as a result of blood's short 42-day shelf life;

Whereas America's Blood Centers was founded in 1962 and is North America's largest network of community-based, federally licensed, not-for-profit blood centers;

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers serve more than 150,000,000 people and operate more than 600 collection sites, collecting a significant amount of the blood supply of the United States;

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers are currently engaged in developing new tests and new technologies to further assure the safety of the Nation's blood supply and are actively engaged in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine;

Whereas America's Blood Centers assists its members and other blood organizations in assuring adequate blood supplies for patients in times of disasters;

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers were the first to respond to the Oklahoma City bombing, the Columbine shootings, and the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy and since 9/11 have supported and developed with the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services proposals to ensure rapid response and adequate blood support in the case of a national disaster or act of terrorism; and

Whereas members of America's Blood Centers support military operations around the globe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the role of America's Blood Centers and its members in—

(A) providing life saving blood to patients, including the military in times of war and the Nation in times of disaster;

(B) ensuring the safety of that blood supply; and

(C) promoting essential blood donor initiatives;

(2) acknowledges the efforts made by member community blood centers and other blood organizations to promote and protect the safety and adequacy of blood components provided to patients; and

(3) recognizes the need to promote a stable blood supply and increase volunteer participation of blood donors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) and the

gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material therein.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 220, a resolution recognizing America's Blood Centers and their member organizations and their commitment to providing over half the Nation with a safe and adequate donor blood supply.

Each year more than 4½ million Americans need a blood transfusion; and for many, donated blood will be a lifesaver. One out of every three people will need donated blood in their lifetime. For many of us, we do our part by participating in blood drives, but we do not fully recognize the significance of our action.

What can take 15 minutes to donate a pint of blood can literally save the life of a mother, a next-door neighbor, or a child. An ample blood supply is also critically important to ensuring we are prepared to respond to health care emergencies.

I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) for offering this resolution. This is a great resolution, and I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to support H. Res. 220, which recognizes America's Blood Centers. Founded 43 years ago, America's Blood Centers are North America's largest network of nonprofit, community blood centers. Seventy-six blood centers operate 600-plus collection sites in 45 States and provide nearly half the United States volunteer donor blood supply.

There are some facts about blood and blood donation that I think are worth noting. Four and a half million Americans would die each year without lifesaving blood transfusions. Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in our country. Every 3 seconds someone needs blood. One out of every 10 people in the United States entering a hospital needs blood. Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three people's lives. About 3 gallons of blood supports the entire Nation's blood needs for just 1 minute.

We all expect blood to be there for us when we need it, and that time is too often unexpected. Whether it is a 7-year-old battling leukemia, a father in-

jured in a serious car accident, or a 65-year-old woman having heart surgery, every day hundreds of people in our communities need blood; and there is, of course, no substitute for it.

H. Res. 220 recognizes blood heroes who are ensuring that the safest possible blood is readily available whenever and wherever needed. As we recognize the important efforts of the blood centers, it is also important to recognize and encourage those Americans who routinely give blood. Both blood donors and blood centers are an essential lifeline for all of us.

I urge the entire House to vote "yes" for this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 220, a resolution I sponsored to recognize America's Blood Centers and its member organizations for their commitment to providing the United States with a safe and adequate volunteer donor blood supply. I would also like to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) for his support of this resolution.

America's Blood Centers was founded in 1962 and is North America's largest network of community-based, federally licensed, not-for-profit blood centers. With locations in 45 States, America's Blood Centers collects almost half the United States blood supply, more than any other organization. They provide blood products and services to more than 3,300 United States hospitals and serve more than 150 million people.

America's Blood Centers have been a national leader in meeting increased national blood supply needs, developing new donor recruitment tools, and making blood donation a societal priority. They are often the first responders to national disasters and ensure that needed resources are available in times of crisis. And, in fact, Mr. Speaker as a cardiac surgeon and a surgeon with extensive experience in open heart surgery and in trauma, I have seen directly the benefit that these blood centers provide.

Additionally, America's Blood Centers are currently engaged in developing new tests and technologies to further assure the safety of the Nation's blood supply and are actively engaged in biomedical research in the area of transfusion medicine.

The resolution before us will ensure that America's Blood Centers receives the national recognition they deserve for their work, work that saves lives every day. Their services are invaluable, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in order to extend a warm thanks and offer my heartfelt appreciation to those who work tirelessly to ensure the well-being of all Americans. The purpose of House Resolution 220 is to give credit where credit is due; to pay our respect

to those who provide life-giving assistance to those in need. I would personally like to thank America's Blood Centers and its Member Organizations for 43 years of providing blood products and services to over 3,300 hospitals across the country.

I am extremely proud to say my district is home to members of America's Blood Centers. The Delta Blood Bank in San Joaquin County is a founding member of America's Blood Centers. The Delta Blood Bank serves 18 hospitals throughout four California counties. And just as the demand for assistance never rests, the Delta Blood Bank center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This community blood bank accepts donations throughout our beautiful central valley from draw sites located in Stockton, Manteca, Lodi and my hometown of Tracy.

Delta Blood Bank's diligent effort to collect, process, store and distribute safe and reliable blood and blood components to every patient in need has not gone unnoticed. America's Blood Centers has been at the frontline to respond to disaster, military and everyday demands. The America's Blood Centers has extended its helping hand beyond the needs of thousands of American hospitals by providing blood to our troops with the life-giving assistance they need. They play an integral role in ensuring the safety of those risking their lives to protect our great country.

House Resolution 220 recognizes the contribution America's Blood Centers has made to the welfare of all Americans. Additionally, there are other organizations that contribute, such as the Pleasanton Blood Center, affiliated with the American Red Cross.

Again, on behalf of the 4.5 million who benefit from its services each and every year, I would like to thank America's Blood Centers, particularly Delta Blood Bank, which serves my hometown and home district in California. And with such tragedies as hurricanes Katrina and Rita and continuing struggles in the Global War on Terror, the role the America's Blood Centers will play in the welfare of Californians and all Americans will be as important as ever.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 220, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN SPIRIT FRAUD PREVENTION ACT

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3675) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to increase civil penalties for violations involving unfair or deceptive acts or practices that exploit popular reaction to an emergency or

major disaster, and to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for such violations in actions brought under section 13 of that Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3675

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PENALTIES FOR UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES EXPLOITING REACTION TO CERTAIN EMERGENCIES AND MAJOR DISASTERS.

(a) VIOLATIONS OF PROHIBITION AGAINST UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—Section 5(m)(1) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45(m)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) In the case of a violation involving an unfair or deceptive act or practice in a national emergency period or disaster period, or relating to an international disaster, the amount of the civil penalty under this paragraph shall be double the amount otherwise provided in this paragraph, if the act or practice exploits popular reaction to the national emergency or major disaster that is the basis for such period, or to the international disaster.

"(E) In this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'national emergency period' means the period that—

"(I) begins on the date the President declares a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

"(II) ends on the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the termination of the national emergency;

"(ii) the term 'disaster period' means the 1-year period beginning on the date the President declares an emergency or major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

"(iii) the term 'international disaster' means any natural or man-made disaster in response to which the President furnishes assistance to any foreign country, international organization, or private voluntary organization pursuant to section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2292(b))."

(b) VIOLATIONS OF OTHER LAWS ENFORCED BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—Section 13 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 53) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e)(1) If a person, partnership, or corporation is found, in an action under subsection (b), to have committed a violation involving an unfair or deceptive act or practice in a national emergency period or a disaster period, or relating to an international disaster, and if the act or practice exploits popular reaction to the national emergency or major disaster that is the basis for such period, or to the international disaster, the court, after awarding equitable relief (if any) under any other authority of the court, shall hold the person, partnership, or corporation liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$22,000 for each such violation.

"(2) In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'national emergency period' means the period that—

"(i) begins on the date the President declares a national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

"(ii) ends on the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the termination of the national emergency;

"(B) the term 'disaster period' means the 1-year period beginning on the date the President declares an emergency or major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

"(C) the term 'international disaster' means any natural or man-made disaster in response to which the President furnishes assistance to any foreign country, international organization, or private voluntary organization pursuant to section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2292(b))."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Since the difficult weeks following the destruction wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, America has witnessed the overpowering kindness of the American heart, the charitable generosity of Americans to help each other. That outpouring of support, financial, spiritual, and otherwise, is beginning to give those who are suffering hope that their communities and lives will finally be rebuilt. The generosity of America is the heart of this great land and is a national treasure that benefits the entire world.

Unfortunately, there are disturbing reports that some unscrupulous persons are again trying to capitalize on the plight of others to make a fast profit and sully the greatness of America and its capability. Like the reports following September 11, fraudsters are again at work trying to take advantage of the kindness of Americans who want to help people who are suffering. And as we learned at the Katrina hearing I held in my subcommittee, the Internet as well as the old-fashioned door-to-door and telephone solicitations again are the tools of choice for those thieves scheming to defraud Americans of their charitable contributions. This is abhorrent and, in my opinion, particularly egregious in times of national tragedy.

While the Federal Government and the States have ways to prosecute these crimes, I think it is absolutely necessary to put those who take advantage of America's charitable generosity on notice that they will face severe penalties. Law enforcement is busy tracking down these thieves, and the Congress needs to make certain that this activity will be aggressively prosecuted once they are exposed and finally brought to justice.

Our response to these crimes also must serve to encourage those who